

# **DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL AGENCIES IN PHILADELPHIA**

*A publication of the  
Delivery of Legal Services Committee  
of the Philadelphia Bar Association*

*(updated October 2005)*

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**AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania**  
1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 600, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 587-9377 (phone) (215) 587-9902 (fax)  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 09067**  
Combined Federal Campaign Number: 9104

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 587-9377
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	Provide free legal service to people living with HIV/AIDS and others affected by the AIDS epidemic.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> none <b>geographic guidelines:</b> PA resident <b>other guidelines:</b> anyone affected by HIV/AIDS needing legal information, advice or representation
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: M-F, 9am-1pm.</b> A staff member conducts an intake on everyone who calls with a legal concern. The intake team reviews all requests for assistance and determines the appropriate response. Follow-up can include: legal information; advocacy; individual representation; and referral to an attorney affiliated with the AIDS Law Project's attorney referral panel.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Assisting clients with a wide array of legal problems in the areas of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• confidentiality and medical record privacy</li><li>• discrimination</li><li>• access to health care</li><li>• public benefits</li><li>• private insurance</li><li>• Wills, living wills, and powers of attorney</li><li>• family law</li><li>• landlord- tenant</li><li>• debt management</li><li>• immigration</li></ul>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Family program:</b> Helps parents with HIV/AIDS make legally secure plans for the future care and/or custody of their children <b>Housing advocacy:</b> Outreach, education, advocacy & representation to ensure that people with HIV/AIDS who are facing eviction and imminent homelessness can maintain secure, affordable housing.  <b>Case Management Advocacy Training:</b> Intensive two-day training for HIV case managers using our comprehensive public benefits advocacy manual. <b>Educational Seminars:</b> The AIDS Law Project conducts three seminars each month in Center City which are free and open to the public:

1. **Leaving Your Job:** People with HIV/AIDS thinking about leaving a job need specific information to transition. Issues discussed include: applying for disability benefits; keeping insurance coverage after leaving a job; and the effect of an HIV diagnosis on an existing insurance policy.
2. **Back to Work:** New drug therapies have dramatically improved the health of many living with HIV/AIDS. Many people are considering a return to the workplace, but fear losing their benefits, particularly the healthcare that made them feel well enough to work in the first place. Issues include: attempting work while receiving Social Security benefits; keeping Medicaid and Medicare while working; and returning to public benefits in the event of poor health.
3. **Debt Management:** Poor health can ruin a person's financial well-being. As people with HIV/AIDS are living longer, they find the debt incurred as a result of the illness has become an overwhelming problem. Constant harassment by debt collectors chips away at the strength necessary to fight HIV/AIDS. A poor credit history and unpaid debt may make it impossible to rent a better apartment, buy a home or otherwise move on with life. Seminar participants will be advised on the range of options for handling debt, including: reviewing a credit report for accuracy; writing judgment proof letters; credit counseling services; and filing bankruptcy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Ronda B. Goldfein, Esq.**

**ACLU of Pennsylvania**  
P.O. Box 40008, Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 592-1513 (phone) (215) 592-1343 (fax)  
e-mail: info@aclupa.org  
Web site: www.aclupa.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 11900**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 923-HELP
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To defend the liberties and rights protected by the constitutions of Pennsylvania and the United States with a comprehensive program including impact litigation and public education.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> none <b>geographic guidelines:</b> violation must occur in the state of Pennsylvania, although client need not be a resident of Pennsylvania <b>other guidelines:</b> focus on clients with civil liberties problem best addressed through litigation.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b> <i>(Walk-ins discouraged.</i> Caller information is taken over the phone. Cases accepted present a civil liberties issue that needs to be addressed through litigation.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Civil liberties, civil rights, due process, Constitutional Law, particularly First Amendment.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Litigation</b> that is precedent-setting in order to maximize the legal impact with minimal resources or that enforces a clearly established Constitutional right. <b>Public education</b> by the Speakers Bureau and staff members. The Speakers Bureau provides speakers to organizations, groups and individuals throughout the state. The goal of this work is to educate the general public about their Constitutional rights and how they apply to their lives. <b>Intake and referral service</b> responds to individuals seeking legal advice or assistance. Some cases are taken; others are referred to appropriate agencies.
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Nancy Hopkins

**The Center for Community Nonprofit Organizations**  
**Temple University Beasley School of Law**  
1719 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
(215) 204-1465 (phone) (215) 204-4693 (fax)  
e-mail: cpaul@temple.edu  
Web site: www.temple.edu/lawschool.ccno

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 204-1465
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide free legal services to community-based Nonprofit organizations that serve a low-income Constituency and are engaged in community Revitalization activities.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	The Center offers free transactional legal services to both existing and start-up nonprofit organizations which serve a low-income constituency.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	Applicants must fill out the Center Intake questionnaire describing their organization and the services they provide or intend to provide. The Center evaluates which clients it can help based on several factors, including but not limited to the strength of the organization's board, whether the organization has already started providing services, the organization's ability to raise funds, research the organization has done on the need for its proposed services, the connection of the organization to existing services, if any, and other resources available to the organization.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Organizational, corporate and tax issues, employment, real estate and board development.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	At least twice yearly, the Center offers a free seminar on starting and running a nonprofit organization.
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Christine Paul, Esq.</b>

**The Center for Disability Law & Policy**  
1617 J.F.K. Boulevard, Suite 800, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 557-7112 (voice/tty) (215) 557-7602 (fax)  
(888) 745-2357 (toll free)  
e-mail: info@equalemployment.org  
Web site: www.equalemployment.org

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 557-7112
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	The Center for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) is a non-profit public interest law center that provides advocacy and legal services to individuals with disabilities throughout Pennsylvania.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	Persons seeking or receiving services from Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) or the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS). Persons with employment discrimination claims.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	By phone
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Title I of the ADA and employment discrimination.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Client Assistance Program (CAP):</b> an advocacy program for people with disabilities seeking or receiving services from OVR or BBVS.
<b>MANAGING ATTORNEY</b>	Jamie C. Ray, Esq.
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Stephen S. Pennington, Esq.

**The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights**  
1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 605, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 731-1447 (phone) (215) 731-1544 (fax)  
e-mail: c4crinfo@center4civilrights.org  
Web site: www.center4civilrights.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 12398**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 731-1447
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights advocates equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in Pennsylvania through direct legal services, education, and policy reform.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	The Center provides telephone counseling & legal information to callers & accepts low-income clients for free direct legal representation on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination. The Center provides some legal services on a sliding scale for those able to pay.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>By phone: M - F, 9 am - 5 pm</b> The caller should leave a message and a Legal Clinic Advocate will return the call to conduct an intake interview. The Legal Clinic Advocate will assess the caller's legal issues and schedule an appt. with an attorney if legal counsel is appropriate.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Housing</b> Discrimination Harassment by a Neighbor Joint Property Ownership with a Partner  <b>Identity Documentation for Transgender Individuals</b> Birth Certificate Change Driver's License, Passport, Social Security Cards Legal Name Change  <b>Military</b> "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy Refusal to Serve  <b>Public Accommodation Discrimination</b>  <b>Youth</b> Abuse in Home Discrimination in Education

## **PROGRAMS**

**Custody Action for LGBT Parents:** assists lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents facing custody battles. Also assists individuals in same-sex custody cases by providing mediation services.

**The Legal Clinic:** focuses on the legal rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. Currently, law students from regional law schools staff the clinic, housed at the Center, on a daily, year-round basis. This clinic is the first-ever of its kind in the country.

**Legal Empowerment Project:** offers technical assistance to local groups throughout Pennsylvania who do not have the legislative or public policy expertise to fully confront local issues by drafting model legislation, providing legal research and legislative testimony; and assisting national groups who may not have the local resources to translate their national priorities into local change.

**The Pennsylvania Anti-Violence Project:** assists lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender victims of domestic violence and hate-motivated violence throughout Pennsylvania.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Stacey L. Sobel, Esq.



recently been involved with the recent changes in federal and state welfare law, the SSI program and the shift of Medical Assistance to managed care.

**Consumer:** Represents individuals who face foreclosure on their homes, have been victims of fraudulent practices, encounter banking or check cashing agency problems or face other consumer law violations.

**Employment:** Handles employment discrimination cases, unemployment compensation issues, and a variety of issues that come up for low-income workers. CLS advocates on behalf of clients who face many legal issues raised by the institution of workfare requirements.

**Energy:** Represents clients having trouble making utilities payments and facing termination of utilities. Serves as the public advocate before the Phila. Gas Commission, protecting the interests of consumers in rate setting and other proceedings.

**Elderly Law Project:** Provides assistance to elderly Philadelphians residents in and out of institutional settings on a variety of issues, including medical assistance and Medicare problems. A special exists for elderly Hispanic Philadelphians.

**Family Advocacy:** Represents parents of children faced with allegations of child neglect or abuse, providing them with constitutionally required representation as they seek to maintain family unity and access support services.

**Advocating on Behalf of Children Program:** Outreach to families with disabled children. Assists parents in obtaining SSI benefits for their children.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Catherine C. Carr, Esq.

**Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project**  
42 South 15th Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 523-9511/9510 (phone) (215) 981-3866 (fax)  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 10073**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(none- see below)
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	Provide free legal advice and representation to low-income persons seeking relief from consumer debts.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> below 187% federal poverty <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Phila. County residents
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	Intake conducted at the following agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AIDS Law Project of PA</li><li>• Community Legal Services</li><li>• Homeless Advocacy Project</li><li>• Legal Clinic for the Disabled</li><li>• Norris Square Civic Association</li><li>• Philadelphia Legal Assistance</li><li>• SeniorLAW Center</li><li>• Tenant Action Group</li><li>• Women Against Abuse</li></ul> All agencies use standard CBAP referral form and provide supporting documents. Supervising Attorney reviews each case for merit. Project Coordinator assigns each case to a volunteer attorney who reports on the case status at 30-, 90-, and 180-day intervals.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Direct client representation in the areas of:</b> consumer debt and Chapter 7 bankruptcy matters.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct legal services</b> in the above legal issues free of charge to Philadelphians who cannot afford legal representation.  <b>Fresh Start Clinic:</b> training program for volunteer law students, paralegals, and young lawyers. Each volunteer teamed with experienced mentor. Program designed to give technical support to professionals providing pro bono legal services to CBAP clients.
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Mary Anne Lucey

**Disabilities Law Project**  
1315 Walnut Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 238-8070 (phone) (215) 789-2498 (TDD)  
(215) 772-3126 (fax)  
e-mail: dlp.phila@dlp-pa.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 10121**  
\* DLP also has a Pittsburgh office

**INTAKE PHONE:** (215) 238-8070; (215) 789-2498 (TDD)

**ORGANIZATION MISSION** To advocate for the full implementation of civil rights for persons with developmental, mental and physical disabilities, especially the right of persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible in the communities of their choice.

**CLIENT ELIGIBILITY** **income guidelines:** none  
**geographic guidelines:** Pennsylvania  
**other guidelines:** Individual with a disability, family member of a person with a disability, or organization on behalf of persons with disabilities.

**INTAKE PROCESS** **by phone: M-F, 9 am - 5 pm**  
Intake is done by either legal interns or attorneys.

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE** **Addressing legal issues related to:**

- *institutional abuse, neglect, and treatment*
- *fair housing*
- *access to community services*
- *access to health care*
- *employment discrimination*
- *transportation*
- *architectural and communication barriers*
- *development of community supports for individuals with mental retardation, mental illness or physical disabilities*

*PLEASE NOTE: DLP does not do work in the areas of criminal law, social security or domestic relations and cannot help clients find housing.*

**PROGRAMS** **Direct legal services** to clients, individually and through class action litigation

**Developmental Disabilities Project**

**Mental Health Project**

**Anti-Discrimination Project:** implementing federal and state statutes that aim to erase discrimination against people with disabilities.

**Children's Advocacy Project:** addresses the health and mental health needs of youngsters with disabilities. DLP operates this project in conjunction with the Education Law Center and the Juvenile Law Center.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mark Murphy, Esq.

**Education Law Center - PA**  
1315 Walnut Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 238-6970 (phone)      (215) 772-3125 (fax)      (215) 789-2498 (TTY)  
e-mail: [elc@elc-pa.org](mailto:elc@elc-pa.org)  
Web site: [www.elc-pa.org](http://www.elc-pa.org)  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 1873**  
\* ELC also has a Pittsburgh office

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 238-6970
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To ensure that all Pennsylvania children have equal access to quality public education services. ELC-PA's priority is to work on behalf of children who are poor, of color, English language learners or who live in rural or under-served parts of the state.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> none <b>geographic guidelines:</b> PA residents
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: daily until 2 p.m.</b> Information taken & calls returned within 3-5 days.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>The educational rights of students in:</b> <i>Public school systems-</i> Special education and early intervention systems Discipline and school enrollment Other student's rights issues  <i>NOTE: ELC <u>does not</u> address issues of home-schooling, higher education, issues relating solely to private schools or gifted education. However, publications on some of these issues are available.</i>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Advice and information</b> to individual parents, students and others through their phone intake system. In addition, ELC's publications can be downloaded from their Web site, <a href="http://www.elc-pa.org">www.elc-pa.org</a> .  <b>Parent education:</b> Provides training programs on legal rights to parents, parent advocates and service providers.  <b>Administrative advocacy:</b> Works with state and local officials to influence policy and provide technical assistance.  <b>Impact Litigation:</b> Represents individual families and classes of families/students to eliminate broad-based illegal practices or to establish important precedents.
<b>CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS</b>	Janet Stotland, Esq. & Len Rieser, Esq.

**The Elderly Law Project**  
**Temple University Beasley School of Law**  
1719 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
(215) 204-6887 (phone)      (215) 204-2570 (fax)  
e-mail: [debra.kroll@temple.edu](mailto:debra.kroll@temple.edu)

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 204-6887
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	Give legal assistance to senior citizens (60 years and older) who reside in Philadelphia.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	60 and over and live in Philadelphia
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	Hotline and in various senior citizen centers in Philadelphia
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Public Benefits, Social Security, SSI, Disability, Medicare, Medical Assistance, Foodstamps, Veteran's Benefits
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<p><b>In house clinical program:</b> law students get 3 credits to work with the project. The students provide direct legal assistance to clients in the community.</p> <p><b>Telephone hotline:</b> operates 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday. General legal questions are answered and either The Elderly Law Project handles the problem or an appropriate referral is made.</p>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Debra Kroll, Esq.

**Friends of Farmworkers, Inc.**  
924 Cherry Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2411  
(215) 733-0878 or (clients) / (800) 729-1607 (phone) / (215) 733-0876 (fax)  
e-mail: fof@friendsfw.org  
Web site: www.friendsfw.org

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 733-0878 or (client only) (800) 729-1607
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To improve the living and working conditions of indigent farmworkers, mushroom workers, food processing workers and workers from immigrant and migrant communities.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<p><b>income guidelines:</b> 125% of federal poverty level <b>geographic guidelines:</b> PA residents or migrant workers who have been employed in PA <b>other guidelines:</b> priority in representation for migrant farmworkers, mushroom workers and food processing workers who have employment related claims or claims related to the client's status as a farmworker. Other farmworkers, mushroom workers and food processing workers with employment related problems may qualify for representation. Workers from immigrant and migrant communities with significant migrant and seasonal farmworker populations who are not employed in agriculture may under certain circumstances qualify for FOF representation. <b>special note:</b> Friends of Farmworkers has declined Legal Services Corporation funding restricting representation of undocumented workers, legislative and administrative advocacy and class actions. Undocumented persons not eligible for Legal Services corporation funded representation <b>are</b> eligible for representation by FOF. Representation may be available for organizations whose members are eligible clients.</p>
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>Agencies referring clients should call on behalf of the client.</b> Clients are seen by appt. in Phila., Kennett Sq., Reading and other locations. Phone and fax intake with cooperating programs and agencies is possible and encouraged. Co-counseling available. Seasonal outreach to farm labor housing.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Employment related claims of farmworkers &amp; claims related to client's status as a farmworker:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum wage and wage payment problems</li><li>• Violations of farm workers' &amp; mushroom workers' rights under federal &amp; state protective statutes</li><li>• Unsafe or unhealthy work conditions</li></ul>

- Problems associated with substandard housing provided to groups of farm workers
- Remediating discrimination or retaliation against workers for exercising legal rights
- Enforcement of state and federal laws for protection of safety in the work place and camp housing
- Establishment of eligibility rights to public benefits
- Discrimination in employment & housing based on race/sex/familial status/nationality
- Providing legal assistance to income eligible farm worker organizations
- Providing community legal education to farm workers and mushroom workers about issues related to their legal rights

## **PROGRAMS**

**Direct legal services** to farmworkers, mushroom workers & food processing workers in PA; to migrant farmworkers who have been employed in PA having claims arising out of employment in PA. Direct legal services to org. whose members are client eligible workers and their families.

**Community education** on legal rights of farmworkers, mushroom workers & food processing workers. This includes outreach to farm labor camps, community groups and students and families in schools w/students of farmworkers.

**Substantive FOF priorities for employment related claims** of eligible workers & claims related to a client's status as a farmworker, including: minimum wage/wage payment problems; unsafe/unhealthy work conditions; substandard housing for workers; employment/housing discrimination based on race/sex/nationality/disability/familial status; retaliation for exercising legal rights; establishment of eligibility rights to public benefits; & limited representation related to immigrant status.

**GENERAL COUNSEL**

Arthur N. Read, Esq.,

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Karen Detamore, Esq.

**HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia**

2100 Arch Street, 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 832-0900 (phone) (215) 832-0919 (fax)

e-mail: [hiasphl@hiaspa.org](mailto:hiasphl@hiaspa.org)

Web site: [www.hiaspa.org](http://www.hiaspa.org)

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 832-0900
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide refugee resettlement, technical assistance, and legal aid services on immigration and nationality matters.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> people who are indigent or with low-incomes (unable to afford a private attorney) <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Southeastern PA and Northern DE <b>other guidelines:</b> people of all nationalities (special expertise in cases from the former Soviet Union)
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: M - F, 9 am to 5 pm</b> (Walk-ins discouraged) Potential clients who appear to be able to afford a private attorney are encouraged to seek the services of the private Bar.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Immigration and nationality matters</b> , with language capacity in French, Italian, Lao, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct legal services in the following areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• immigration counseling and representation</li><li>• family reunification visas</li><li>• political asylum</li><li>• adjustment of status</li><li>• employment authorization</li><li>• relief from removal/deportation</li><li>• naturalization</li><li>• replacement of documents</li><li>• travel documents</li><li>• extension/change of non-immigrant status</li></ul> <b>Other Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-migration counseling and processing for refugee resettlement</li><li>• Social Service Referrals</li><li>• Referral to citizenship preparation classes</li><li>• Russian-language text processing and publication</li><li>• Community education and outreach</li><li>• Location of displaced persons</li><li>• Translation</li><li>• Reparations claims processing</li><li>• Research</li></ul>

- INS photos
- Advocacy for the rights of foreign-born

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Judith Bernstein-Baker, Esq.

**Homeless Advocacy Project**  
42 South 15th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 523-9595 or 1-800-837-2672  
(215) 981-3866 (fax)  
email: marsha@philalegal.org  
Web site: www.homelessadvocacyproject.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 03552**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 523-9595
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide free civil legal services to homeless individuals and families and to nonprofit community groups developing affordable housing and other services for homeless persons.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> LSC income eligibility <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia area <b>other guidelines:</b> homelessness
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>Intake is done at regularly scheduled legal clinics, homeless shelters and soup kitchens.</b> If a client calls HAP for intake, s/he will receive an appointment for intake at a legal clinic. Phone calls are taken M - F, 9 am - 5 pm.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Legal services for the homeless</b> , with an understanding of the multiple legal problems and social issues of homeless people. HAP assists homeless clients with civil matters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Benefits</i></li><li>• <i>Commercial/Credit</i></li><li>• <i>Education</i></li><li>• <i>Employment</i></li><li>• <i>Family Law</i></li><li>• <i>Health care</i></li><li>• <i>Emergency Shelter/Housing</i></li><li>• <i>Property</i></li><li>• <i>Records</i></li><li>• <i>Trusts/Estates</i></li></ul> <p>HAP also provides referrals to social services for homeless persons.</p>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct civil legal services</b> for homeless individuals and families.  <b>Legal Clinics</b> at shelters and soup kitchens inform homeless people of their legal rights and provide representation. Volunteers conduct the initial interviews and see the case through to its conclusion.

**Adopt a Shelter Program:** HAP provides training and support to attorneys at firm/legal departments who agree to staff one of HAP's legal clinics at a shelter on a regular basis.

**Children and Families Project:** HAP provides representation to homeless children and their families in the following legal matters: special education, children's SSI, TANF benefits, child custody and support. HAP holds its CFP clinics in 8 shelters located throughout Philadelphia.

**Pro bono legal services for nonprofit community groups:** HAP assists groups that are developing affordable housing and other services for the homeless.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Marsha Cohen, Esq.

**Juvenile Law Center**  
1315 Walnut Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 625-0551 (phone) (215) 625-9589 (fax)  
e-mail: [info@jlc.org](mailto:info@jlc.org)  
Web site: [www.jlc.org](http://www.jlc.org)  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 00784**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	1-800-875-8887 (PA only)
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	JLC is a nonprofit, public interest law firm which advances the rights and well-being of children involved with public agencies by working for the reform and coordination of the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health and public health care systems.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>JLC addresses issues surrounding children and children's rights only.</b>
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>intake by phone, M-F, 9 am - 5 pm</b> Intakes may also be submitted by e-mail to <a href="mailto:info@jlc.org">info@jlc.org</a> . JLC provides legal information and referral. Intakes do not necessarily result in representation by JLC.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Information and referrals regarding the following issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adoption</li><li>• Child abuse</li><li>• Child welfare</li><li>• Custody</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Emancipation</li><li>• Foster care</li><li>• Health and mental health issues</li><li>• Juvenile justice</li><li>• Teen pregnancy and parenting</li></ul>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct legal services</b> to children in the care or under supervision of DHS due to past abuse/neglect. Children are assigned to JLC by the court. <i>JLC does not provide direct representation to the public.</i>  <b>Consultations</b> on adoption law.  <b>Advocacy</b> related to Medical Assistance managed care issues for children; conditions of confinement; discrimination against children with mental health needs and other disabilities (in conjunction with the Education Law Center and the Disabilities Law Project); females in the justice system; issues associated with zero tolerance policies, special

education and disabled children and delinquency/disruptive conduct; transition to adulthood for youth in foster care; improving the quality and increasing the number of lawyers who represent dependent and delinquent youth.

**Professional education** regarding children and the law and the ethics of representing children.

**LEGAL DIRECTOR**

Marsha L. Levick, Esq.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Robert G. Schwartz, Esq.

**Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc.**  
1513 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 587-3350 (voice)    (215) 587-3166 (fax)    (215) 587-3352 (TTY)  
e-mail: lclinic@mageerehab.org  
Web site: www.legalclinicforthe-disabled.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 01720**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 581-3350 (voice/TTY)
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide the highest quality specialized, free legal services to low-income persons with physical disabilities.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> 150% Federal poverty guidelines <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery counties <i>The clinic does not serve persons whose <u>only</u> disability is mental illness, alcoholism, or drug addiction.</i>
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.</b> (Message can be left on voice mail at any time.) Staff screen potential cases for income eligibility and legal merit. Clients whose cases qualify for Legal Clinic assistance are represented by legal clinic attorneys or referred to volunteer attorneys and paralegals who represent them on a <i>pro bono</i> basis.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Legal advice and representation for people with disabilities in the following areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• accommodations</li><li>• consumer law</li><li>• discrimination</li><li>• domestic and caregiver abuse</li><li>• family law</li><li>• housing/property</li><li>• landlord/tenant</li><li>• public benefits</li><li>• SSI/Social Security Disability</li><li>• utilities</li><li>• wills, powers of attorney</li></ul>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct legal services</b> for people with disabilities in the above areas of the law.  <b>Anti-Violence Initiative</b> provides representation, advice and consultation for persons who are disabled who are dealing with domestic, caregiver

and other abuse.

**Legal Services for the Deaf** provides service through the use of sign-language interpreters by appointment.

**Community education** conducted by volunteer attorneys and staff who present workshops on topics of interest to the disability and legal communities.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Thomas C. Prettyman, Esq.

**National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women**  
125 S. 9th Street, Suite 302, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 351-0010 (phone) (215) 351-0779 (fax)  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 09885**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 351-0010. Accepts collect calls from women in prison.
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To ensure justice for battered women charged with crimes related to their battering while preventing their further victimization by the criminal legal system.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	No financial eligibility requirements.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<u>No direct legal representation to individuals</u> ; provide technical assistance/support to battered women defendants and their defense teams. To seek assistance, call the office directly.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Domestic violence and criminal defense.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<p>The National Clearinghouse is a national nonprofit resource and advocacy center providing individualized technical assistance and other support to battered women defendants and their defense teams (attorneys, battered women's advocates and expert witnesses). Have worked with battered women who killed their abusive partner in self-defense; assisted in cases where battered women were coerced into crimes by their abuser or were charged with "failing to protect" their children from their batterer's violence. Correspond with incarcerated battered women filing appeals or applying for clemency.</p> <p>The National Clearinghouse also maintains an extensive Resource Library of articles, case law, and litigation materials; coordinates a national network of advocates and other professionals assisting battered women defendants; and conducts community and professional training seminars. For information on publications or the Supporting Members' Network, contact the National Clearinghouse.</p>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Sue Osthoff

**Nationalities Service Center**  
1300 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5812  
(215) 893-8400 (phone) (215) 735-9718 (fax)  
e-mail: dmulligan@nationalitiesservice.org  
Web site: www.nationalitiesservice.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 00088**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 893-8400
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To eliminate barriers caused by language and cultural differences and to promote the assets that those differences have for our community. To address issues and problems faced by immigrants and refugees.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> none <b>geographic guidelines:</b> PA, NJ, DE and elsewhere
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by appointment: M-F, 9 am - 5 pm</b> Call to schedule an appointment.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Family-based immigration, asylum &amp; removal defense</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	1) Direct legal services for immigrants and refugees 2) Social services & counseling 3) Refugee resettlement 4) English classes 5) Nutritional services to the elderly 6) GED classes 7) At-risk youth services 8) Educational seminars for lay people, law students, and attorneys 9) Temple University Beasley School of Law Immigration Clinic
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Nan Feyler, Esq.

**Pennsylvania Health Law Project**  
437 Chestnut Street, Suite 900, Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 625-3663 (phone)      (215) 625-3879 (fax)      (866) 236-6310 (TTY)  
Web site: www.phlp.org

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(800) 274-3258 (Consumer HelpLine)
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To assist low-income consumers, the elderly and persons with disabilities to access health care coverage and quality services.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	Persons who qualify for or are seeking to qualify for one of Pennsylvania's publicly finance, means-tested health insurance programs, including Medical Assistance, CHIP, and AdultBasic. <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Pennsylvania
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: M-F, 9 am - 5 pm</b>
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All aspects of the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Program, including eligibility, managed care grievances and appeals, community based services waivers, Medical Assistance for workers with disabilities, service limit appeals, Medicaid transportation programs, rural health, and behavioral health.</li><li>• Medicare prescription drug coverage and appeals.</li><li>• Children's Health Insurance Program eligibility and services.</li><li>• AdultBasic Health Insurance Program eligibility and services.</li><li>• Charitable obligations of health care providers and insurers.</li><li>• Health care policy and financing for low-income programs.</li><li>• Health care provider education.</li><li>• Personal care homes and assisted living.</li></ul>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<p><b>Community Education:</b> newsletters, Web site, treatises, and direct outreach to the community.</p> <p><b>Legal Representation and referrals on low-income health issues.</b></p> <p><b>Quickscreen:</b> interactive Web-based tool to screen for eligibility of health insurance programs.</p> <p><b>Health Policy Advocacy on behalf of consumers.</b></p>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Michael J. Campbell, Esq.

**Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center**  
50 Mt. Zion Road, York PA 17402  
(717) 600-8099 or (484) 802-7281 (director) (717) 600-8044 (fax)  
Web site: [www.pirclaw.org](http://www.pirclaw.org)

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(717) 600-8099
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide legal support and services to adults and children detained by the Department of Homeland Security in Pennsylvania detention facilities.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> 125% - 187.5% of federal poverty level <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Pennsylvania
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	Intake is conducted at detention facilities to identify individuals in need of representation.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Removal/deportation proceedings, with an emphasis on asylum, withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Torture Survivors Program:</b> Provides representation and other legal resources to detained immigrants who have fled torture in their home countries or who fear being tortured if returned to their countries.  <b>Particularly Vulnerable Populations:</b> PIRC concentrates its efforts on particularly vulnerable populations of detained including unaccompanied children, families, survivors of domestic violence and immigrants with mental health conditions.
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Kristen Uhler, Esq.

**Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project**  
924 Cherry Street, Suite 523, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 925-2966 (phone) (215) 925-5337 (fax)  
Web site: [www.pailp.org](http://www.pailp.org)  
\*PILP also has branch offices in:  
Lewisburg: (570) 523-1104 & Pittsburgh: (412) 232-0276

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 925-2966
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide free legal assistance in civil matters to low-income people who are incarcerated or institutionalized.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> 187.5% of federal poverty level <b>geographic guidelines:</b> PA residents <b>other guidelines:</b> people who are in prisons, jails, state hospitals (b/c of mental illness) or state centers (b/c of mental retardation)
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	by appointment, telephone or correspondence. Collect calls are accepted from current clients only, Monday through Friday from 9 am - 5 pm  Due to a large volume of requests for legal assistance, PILP has a staff person who responds to every inquiry. An assessment of legal merit is made and if appropriate, information and referrals are given.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Civil legal matters of incarcerated or institutionalized low-income people.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct legal services</b> to low-income people in PA who are in prisons, jails, state hospitals or state centers.
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Angus Love, Esq.

**Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts**  
100 North 17th Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 569-1150 (phone) (215) 569-9153 (fax)  
e-mail: [staff@pmconline.org](mailto:staff@pmconline.org)  
Web site: [www.pmconline.org](http://www.pmconline.org)

<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To improve the administration of justice through a variety of programs, including reforming the judicial selection system, improving the jury system, and reducing bias in our courts.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	PMC is an available resource to individuals and organizations on a variety of issues concerning the courts and their administration. PMC does not provide direct legal services.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	PMC hears from Pennsylvania citizens through our Web site, the mail, the phone and at speaking engagements about a variety of issues, from problems with judges and the court system, to juror experiences, to confusion with the judicial selection system.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	PMC specializes in the areas of judicial discipline, court financing, judicial selection reform, jury system improvement, and bias in the courts.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	Educating and organizing Pennsylvanians about the importance of switching to a merit selection system at the appellate level, and working to build coalitions throughout Pennsylvania. PMC's Jury Project has been successful in improving the jury system and the "juror experience," and reaching out to students about the importance of jury service. PMC staff and Advisory Board members work closely with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's statewide Committee on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Justice System. PMC has regional advisory boards in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, members of which participate as speakers on PMC's "Speakers Bureau" throughout the state.
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Lynn A. Marks, Esq.

**Philadelphia Bar Association's  
Lawyer Referral and Information Service**  
1101 Market Street, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 238-6391(Admin. only)      (215) 238-1159 (fax)  
e-mail: [iris@philabar.org](mailto:iris@philabar.org)  
Web site: [www.philadelphiabarlawyers.com](http://www.philadelphiabarlawyers.com)

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 238-6333
<b>PROGRAM MISSION</b>	To provide referrals to attorneys in private practice.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<p><b>LRIS:</b> <b>income guidelines:</b> none (<i>anyone may call, referrals to attorneys are for clients who are able to pay an attorney in private practice</i>) <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia area</p> <p><b>Low Fee Plan:</b> <b>income guidelines:</b> income greater than 187.5% of the official poverty threshold (OPT) guideline but no more than 200% of the OPT or income below 187.5 % of the OPT who are nevertheless ineligible for free legal services <b>geographic guidelines:</b> must be Philadelphia resident</p>
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<p><b>by phone, M - F, 9 am - 5 pm</b> <b>Hours are extended to 8 pm on the third Wednesday of every month,</b> when phones are staffed by volunteer lawyers.</p>
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<p><b>All civil and criminal matters.</b> <i>There are no free lawyers for representation in family court.</i></p>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<p><b>LRIS</b> staff provides referrals to attorneys who are in private practice. When referred to an attorney, clients must expect to pay \$25 for the first half-hour consultation. Thereafter, the client may negotiate the fee with the attorney.</p> <p><b>Low Fee Plan:</b> Intake is done by the referring agency, who determines client's eligibility for the Low Fee Plan. If client is eligible, LRIS staff will refer the client for an attorney. The following cases are accepted at varying flat rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administration of estates</li><li>• Chapter 7 bankruptcy</li><li>• Child support (conference)</li><li>• Child support (hearing)</li></ul>

- Custody/visitation of children)
- Child support (conference)
- Deed transfer
- Guardianship
- Living will
- Name change
- Power of attorney
- Simple will
- Spousal support (conference)
- Spousal support (hearing)
- Uncontested divorce
- Uncontested divorce (w/ stipulation as to spousal & domestic abuse)
- Unemployment compensation (admin. hearing only)

The following cases are accepted at reduced hourly rates:

- Consumer
- Creditor debtor (defense)
- Eviction (hearing)
- Landlord tenant
- Negligence defense
- Small claims court (hearing)

**Fee Dispute Program:** resolves disagreements about fees between clients and lawyers out of court. For more information, call (215) 238-6326.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Charles J. Klitsch, Esq.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Paul J. Kazaras, Esq., Director

**Philadelphia Legal Assistance**  
42 South 15th Street, Suite 500, Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 981-3800 (phone) (215) 981-3860, 3870 (fax)  
e-mail: info@philalegal.org  
Web site: www.philalegal.org

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 981-3800
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide free civil legal services to Philadelphia's low-income community.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> below 187% of poverty (if between 125% and 187% of poverty, the client must meet certain criteria.) <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia residents or referral of non-residents with Philadelphia-based cases
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>walk-in intake:</b> M & W, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. <b>phone intake:</b> T & Th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. No appointment needed for new clients. <b>Intake for Family Law, CASAC (Custody And Support Assistance Clinic) and the Guild Food Stamp Clinic is handled separately. For intake days and times, call intake phone number listed above.</b>
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Family Law:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Custody</li><li>• Divorce</li><li>• Domestic violence</li><li>• Support</li></ul> <b>Public Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cash assistance</li><li>• Food stamps</li><li>• Medical Assistance</li><li>• SSI</li><li>• Unemployment compensation</li></ul> <b>Consumer Housing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bankruptcy</li><li>▪ Consumer cases</li><li>▪ Mortgage foreclosures</li><li>▪ Predatory Lending</li></ul>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct legal services</b> through individual client representation in the areas of expertise listed above.

**Outreach to Latina victims of domestic violence** through Congreso de Latinos Unidos. Once a week, a paralegal counsels Latina women on domestic violence and family law issues at Congreso de Latinos Unidos. *Appointments must be made through Congreso's domestic violence program.*

**The Custody and Support Assistance Clinic, Inc.:** Provides advice and *pro se* assistance to low-income families on child custody and child support matters. The clinic is operated by University of Pennsylvania law students at PLA. To find out dates and times of operation, people may call the intake phone number listed above.

**Lawyer's Guild Food Stamp Clinic:** Provides assistance/ representation to individuals seeking to obtain/ maintain food stamp benefits. The Guild Food Stamp Clinic is operated by University of Pennsylvania Law Students. To find dates/times of operation, call the intake phone number above.

**Pennsylvania Farmworker Project:** Provides representation to migrant farmworkers throughout Pennsylvania in employment and housing matters. Intake is done on an outreach basis at farm labor camps throughout the state or by telephone by calling (888) 541-1544 toll free.

**Public Benefits Outreach Project:** Community education presentations on the changes in welfare law are conducted at various community-based organizations throughout Philadelphia.

**Don't Borrow Trouble Hotline:** The Hotline operates 24/7 as a single point of access for Philadelphians, educating and advising prospective borrowers about predatory lending and securing representation for borrowers with claims. The Hotline number is (215) 523-9520.

**Outreach to Asian Victims of Domestic Violence:** A bilingual paralegal provides outreach to the Asian community at community events and through collaboration with agencies serving the Asian community. Applicants for service can access services through the family law intake process or by calling one of the Asian Language numbers below:  
Vietnamese (215) 523-9507  
Cambodian (215) 523-9505  
Chinese (215) 523-9506

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Anita Santos-Singh, Esq.

**Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts**  
1616 Walnut Street, Suite 1800, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 545-3385 (phone) (215) 545-4839 (fax)  
e-mail: info@pvla.org  
Web site: www.pvla.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 02604**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 545-3385, ext. 1
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide legal services, educational programs, and community building events for artists, lawyers, and cultural organizations.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<p><b>Income Guidelines:</b> <b>Legal-Lines</b> and <b>ArtFaxes</b> are provided to any artist or arts or cultural organization with an arts-related legal issue. <b>Full Service</b> referrals are provided to financially qualifying artists and arts and cultural organizations with an arts-related legal issue. The financial qualifications are: <i>Individual Artists:</i> Annual gross income of \$35,000 per year or less if single, with a \$3,000 per dependent credit; combined annual gross income of \$55,000 per year or less if married or cohabiting, with a \$3,000 per dependent credit. <i>Nonprofit Organizations:</i> Annual operating budget of \$1 million or less. <b>Geographic Guidelines:</b> Southeastern PA, Southern NJ, and DE. Depending on the issue, PVLA, in its discretion, may provide Legal-Lines or ArtFaxes to artists and arts and cultural organizations from outside the region.</p>
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: M - F, 10 am - 6 pm</b>
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Legal services and educational programs for individual artists and arts and cultural organizations. PVLA volunteer attorneys provide legal assistance on a wide range of arts-related legal issues, including Administrative/Municipal Law; Arbitration/Mediation; Art and Entertainment Law; Bankruptcy; Censorship/Artistic Expression; Collections; Computer/Technology/Internet Law; Copyright/Licensing; Defamation; General and Management Agreements; Immigration; Insurance; Intellectual Property; International Law; Labor and Employment; Landlord-Tenant; Litigation; Nonprofit Law; Patent Law; Real Estate; Right of Publicity; Small Business Start-Up; Small Claims; Tax; Trademark; Trusts and Estates.

## PROGRAMS

**Legal-Line** is a free, one-time-only telephone conversation between any artist or arts or cultural organization client and an attorney in a given practice area to discuss a particular arts-related legal issue.

**ArtFax** is a free, one-time-only telephone conversation between any artist or arts or cultural organization client and an attorney in a given practice area to discuss a particular short (no more than three-page) arts-related legal document.

In a **Full Service** referral, PVLA volunteer attorneys provide free legal representation for qualifying artists and arts and cultural organizations.

PVLA provides many **Educational Programs**, both for arts professionals and as Continuing Legal Education programs for attorneys. PVLA also maintains a large **Library** of books and pamphlets on a wide range of legal issues.

Through its **Board Matching** service, PVLA provides attorneys to sit on the Boards of Directors or nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

PVLA's **Speaker's Bureau** program provides volunteer attorneys to speak to students and arts and cultural organizations on a wide variety of arts-related legal issues.

PVLA presents the course **Arts Management and the Law** at Drexel University each year, through which the next generation of arts managers learns the legal aspects of running an arts organization.

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
& LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER**

Tracey I. Batt, Esq.

**Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP)  
and Philadelphia LawWorks, a Project of VIP**

Robinson Building, 4th Floor, 42 South 15th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

(215) 523-9550 (phone) (215) 564-0845 (fax)

E-mail: [phillyvip@phillyvip.org](mailto:phillyvip@phillyvip.org)

Web-site: [www.phillyvip.org](http://www.phillyvip.org)

United Way Donor Option Number: 7763

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	Intakes are accepted in writing from other legal services and social services agencies, see <b>INTAKE PROCESS</b> , below. For information, call (215) 523-9550.
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide free representation to indigent clients in civil cases by matching volunteer attorneys with clients.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> 125% - 187.5% of federal poverty level <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia resident (or non-resident) with a legal problem in Philadelphia courts.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>Intakes are done by written referrals from other legal and social service agencies.</b> All requests for assistance should be directed to the Managing Attorney ( <a href="mailto:managingattorney@phillyvip.org">managingattorney@phillyvip.org</a> .)
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>VIP provides direct legal services through referrals to volunteer counsel in any civil matter that is not fee generating and for which there is no right to appointed counsel, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ child abuse expungement</li><li>▪ consumer</li><li>▪ family law: adoption, custody, divorce, guardianship, name change, support</li><li>▪ housing/real estate</li><li>▪ immigration</li><li>▪ landlord/tenant</li><li>▪ probate/wills</li><li>▪ special education and school discipline</li><li>▪ SSI</li><li>▪ taxes</li><li>▪ tort defense</li></ul>
<b>LAWWORKS PROJECT</b>	<b>Philadelphia LawWorks:</b> collaborative program with other legal services organizations and the private bar to provide free legal services to eligible nonprofit organizations and

businesses and to homeowners seeking to clear title to their home.

**Intake Phone: 215-523-9550**

**Project Mission:** to provide pro bono legal referrals to nonprofits, small business owners, and low-income homeowners that need legal title to their homes.

**Client Eligibility:**

**Income Guidelines:** 125-187.5% of federal poverty level for homeownership clients; 300% of the federal poverty level for small business owners; eligibility of community organizations/nonprofits varies.

**Geographic Guidelines:** Homeownership clients must live in, or want to live in, a home in Philadelphia. Community organizations and small businesses must serve the Philadelphia community.

**Intake Process:** Community organizations and small businesses may contact Law Works directly for an application. Intakes for homeownership matters are done by written referrals from other legal service agencies.

**Area of Expertise:** small business, nonprofit, probate and real estate law.

## **PROGRAMS**

**Low-income taxpayers clinic** (seasonal).

**Training, mentoring and assistance** for volunteer attorneys, paralegals and students. CLE credit available for attorneys accepting pro bono cases.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Sharon Browning, Esq.

**Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia**  
125 South 9th Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 627-7100 (phone) (215) 627-3183 (fax)  
Web site: [www.pilcop.org](http://www.pilcop.org)  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 00572**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 627-7100
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To advance the promise of equal citizenship to all persons irrespective of disability, race, national origin, gender, religion or poverty through systemic reform.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	No income guidelines
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	All requests for legal assistance are reviewed by lawyers.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Disabilities rights, public school finance reform, environmental justice, fair housing, child custody and foster care, police accountability, the delivery of health care services to children and employment discrimination.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	PILCOP provides representation in the above-referenced areas.
<b>CO-CHIEF COUNSEL</b>	Michael Churchill, Esq. & Thomas K. Gilhool, Esq.

**Regional Housing Legal Services**  
2 South Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038-7615  
(215) 572-7300(phone) (215) 572-0262 (fax)  
Web site: www.rhls.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 14160**

\*RHLS also has offices in Harrisburg:  
(717) 236-9488 and Pittsburgh: (412) 201-4301.

**INTAKE PHONE** (see below)

**ORGANIZATION MISSION** Regional Housing Legal Services ("RHLS") is a statewide legal services organization which provides quality legal and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, community-based groups, and resident groups, which are developing housing and economic development opportunities for lower income persons and revitalizing their communities.

**CLIENT ELIGIBILITY** **RHLS represents organizations that meet the following criteria:** the organization has some lower income Board members; the project for which the organization seeks assistance will benefit lower income persons; and the group cannot afford private legal counsel.

NOTE: RHLS does not represent individual clients.

**INTAKE PROCESS** A group seeking RHLS representation must send a letter on the organization's letterhead describing its mission and the nature of services it needs.

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

**Affordable housing:**

- Single Family Homeownership (New Construction and Rehabilitation)
- Multi-Family Rental
- SRO Housing
- Emergency Housing
- Section 202/811 Housing
- Shared Housing
- Limited Equity Cooperative
- Transitional Housing
- Mobile Home Parks
- Tenant Management of Public Housing
- LIHPRHA
- Special Needs Housing
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Projects
- Historic Tax Credit Projects
- Public Housing Restructuring
- Housing Choice Rent Subsidy Programs

**Economic development:**

- Representation of "Affordable Lenders"
- Start-Up Businesses
- Section 3 Employment
- Business Opportunities for Low Income People
- Mixed Use Developments
- Commercial Developments
- Childcare Developments
- Facilities Development
- Open Space and Recreation Development

**Other non-profit expertise:**

- Entity Selection
- Non-Profit Mergers and Acquisitions
- IRS Tax Matters for Non-Profits
- Partnerships and Joint Ventures

**Project development:**

- Assist non-profits to envision, structure, finance and operate projects
- Serve as in-house counsel for project duration
- Maximize resident project participation
- Help maximize funding and/or # of units

**Policy analysis:**

- Identify critical community development policy issues
- Craft policy recommendations to maximize the preservation and production of affordable housing and facilitate more comprehensive community development
- Disseminate relevant information throughout the state

**PROGRAMS**

**Housing Law Project**

**PA Utility Law Project** (in the RHLS Harrisburg office)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mark Schwartz, Esq.

**MANAGING ATTORNEY**

Judy F. Berkman, Esq.

**SeniorLAW Center\***  
(\*formerly known as the Senior Citizen Judicare Project)  
100 South Broad Street, 18th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19110  
(215) 988-1244 (phone)      (215) 988-1243 (fax)  
Web site: www.seniorlawcenter.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 04456**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 988-1242
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	SeniorLAW Center provides civil legal services and community education a wide variety of substantive areas to low income Philadelphia residents who are 60 and over.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> 150% of poverty <b>age guidelines:</b> 60 years old or older <b>geographic guidelines:</b> city of Philadelphia
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone or walk-in - clients may self refer</b> <b>phone intake: M - F, 9 am - 1 pm</b> <b>walk-ins: M - W, 9 am - 4 pm</b> Potential clients speak with a legal staff member who screens for eligibility and legal merit. Completed intakes processed and assigned to a legal staff member. If client's case is an emergency, a response is immediate. Follow-up is done by a staff member or volunteer attorney.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Personal Planning:</b> drafting of wills, powers of attorney, advance health care directives, probate of small estates, medicaid, estate recovery counseling  <b>Housing/Utilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• home repair contractor problems</li><li>• landlord/tenant issues</li><li>• utility problems</li><li>• fair Housing &amp; Philadelphia Housing Authority hearings</li><li>• code enforcement hearings</li><li>• real estate taxes</li><li>• deed transfers/claiming title</li><li>• demolition and other property damage issues</li></ul> <b>Consumer Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contracts and warranties</li><li>• fraudulent/unfair sales practices</li><li>• small claims and unfair debt collection</li><li>• credit reporting problems</li><li>• private health/hospital insurance</li><li>• private pension issues</li></ul> <b>Family Law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• protection from abuse</li></ul>

- investigation/prevention of financial exploitation
- custody & support for grandparents and other kinship caregivers

## PROGRAMS

**Asian Elderly Legal Project:** This program focuses on the legal needs of Asian elders in partnership with Asian community organizations in Philadelphia. SeniorLAW Center services are presented to elders in comfortable and familiar community settings, in their own languages and neighborhoods.

**Homebound Elderly Legal Project:** focuses on the legal needs of homebound and disabled senior citizens, including provision of services through home visits.

**Homeowners Assistance Program:** provides elders with legal assistance, information and referrals needed to remain independent in safe, habitable homes for longer periods of time. These services are community-based, provided through six community legal clinics throughout the city.

**KinC.A.N. (Kinship Caregiver Assistance Network):** provides representation and education for senior citizens who are acting as caregivers for, or seeking custody of minor relative children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

**Legal Services for Hispanic Elders:** SeniorLAW Center also provides bilingual bicultural services for Hispanic elders, holding workshops and community-based legal clinics each month in communities in Kensington and North Philadelphia.

**Neighborhood Legal Clinics:** In addition to SeniorLAW Center's legal clinics in Asian and Hispanic communities, SeniorLAW Center provides community-based services at two other locations in low-income neighborhoods of North and West Philadelphia, at senior centers primarily serving minority elders.

**Project S.A.F.E. (Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation):** combats elder abuse through representation, training and community education.

## OTHER SERVICES

**Advocacy** through participation on task forces concerned with elder issues.

**Community and professional education**  
workshops on legal issues affecting the elderly.

**Law student training** for students who work at SeniorLAW Center to develop skills in client counseling and representation, negotiating, advocacy, research and legal writing and elder law issues.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Karen C. Buck, Esq.

**Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight (SCRUB)**  
1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1650, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 731-1775 (phone) (215) 732-5725 (fax)  
e-mail: [scrub@urbanblight.org](mailto:scrub@urbanblight.org)  
Web site: [www.urbanblight.org](http://www.urbanblight.org)

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 731 1775
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	The Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight is a Philadelphia based non-profit organization working to protect and improve the region's visual environment and quality of life by promoting public support for scenic environmental policies and by providing neighborhoods with the education and the technical and legal assistance needed to fully participate in land use issues.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	Citizens and neighborhood organizations in the Philadelphia region
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	Telephone intake from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are also welcome.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Zoning and land use issues where the larger community is adversely affected or where there is a city-wide impact.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	Provide advice and direct legal services to individuals and community groups regarding land use issues.
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	Mary Tracy

**Support Center for Child Advocates**  
1900 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 925-1913 (phone) (215) 925-4756 (fax)  
e-mail: frankc@advokid.org  
Web site: www.advokid.org  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 00535**

**INTAKE PHONE** (215) 925-1913

**ORGANIZATION MISSION** To advocate for child victims of abuse and neglect, with the goal of providing a nurturing, supportive environment for every child.

**CLIENT ELIGIBILITY** **income guidelines:** none  
**geographic guidelines:** Philadelphia County

**INTAKE PROCESS** **By phone: M - F, 9 am - 5 pm**  
*Child Advocates* must be appointed by a judge to represent a child. Referrals are usually from courts, hospitals, the DA's office or other agencies.

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE** **Intra-familial child abuse/neglect/sex abuse.**  
*Child Advocates* provides direct legal and social service advocacy to child victims in both criminal and civil court cases related to child abuse.

**PROGRAMS** **Child Protection:** provides free lawyers and social workers to serve abused children as court-appointed "Child Advocates," to stand with the child, as counsel and guardian *ad litem*, and ensure his or her health and safety.

**Kinship Care:** Direct service through *Kids 'N Kin: the Caregiving Program*, a collaboration with Philadelphia Society for Services to Children, provides in-home legal and social services to children living with relative care givers. *Kinship Policy Project* advocates on local and state reform.

**Medically Needy Children:** provides child advocates for children in the child welfare system with serious and complex medical needs.

**Adoption:** specialized advocacy to promote and support the adoption of children from the child welfare system, with special emphasis on adoption and other permanency options for older adolescents.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Frank P. Cervone, Esq.

**Temple Legal Aid Office**  
James E. Beasley School of Law at Temple University  
1719 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
(215) 204-1800 (phone)      (215) 204-5521 (fax)

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 204-1800
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	Temple Legal Aid Office has a dual mission; to give qualified law students a clinical legal educational opportunity with actual clients by working under the supervision of experienced attorneys to provide free legal advice and representation to clients in civil, non-fee generating cases as a community service.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>Income guidelines:</b> federal poverty guidelines <b>Geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone:</b> M – F, 9am – 5pm Each case is screened for case type and financial eligibility. TLAO operates year-round with the professional staff assuming direct responsibility for cases. However, most intake occurs during the academic year in the months of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., and March.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Family Law Litigation:</b> Law students interview prospective clients at TLAO and, if the case is accepted, prepare and represent the client in court proceedings under the supervision of an experienced attorney. Typical cases include such matters as <i>custody, support (child and spousal), paternity, adoption, and birth record amendments</i>  <b>Child Custody Mediation:</b> Following intensive skills training, law students conduct mediation sessions at the Domestic Relations Branch of Family Court for cases referred by judges and custody Masters. All sessions are supervised by experienced mediators.  <b>Legal Advocacy for people with cancer, HIV, and/or physical disabilities:</b> Law students conduct intake at various sites where people with the above health problems or impairments receive other services. Some of the intake sites include or have included the Temple Hospital Infectious Disease Clinic, Frankford Hospital Cancer Center, Street Joseph’s Hospital’s Care Clinic, the Community Living Room, and Liberty Resources, Inc. Student work is supervised by an experienced attorney.

Some of the matters handled include SSI hearings, life planning, and medical insurance issues.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Outreach:**

Law students, who have been qualified by Women in Transition, make presentations on custody and support law and procedures to victims of domestic violence.

TLO professional staff members make informational presentations to community groups and agency personnel on the full range of issues handled by the law students.

TLO maintains formal referral relationships with a number of organizations throughout Philadelphia to provide advice and assistance on issues within

TLO expertise to qualified members of those groups. Limited intake may be generated from such referrals.

## **GENERAL COUNSEL**

Mary K. Hanna, Esq.

**Tenants' Action Group of Philadelphia**  
21 South 12th Street, 12th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 575-0700 (phone) (215) 575-0753 (TDD)  
(215) 575-0718 (fax)  
Web site: www.tagphila.org

**INTAKE PHONE** (215) 575-0700 (voice), (215) 575-0753 (TDD)

**ORGANIZATION MISSION** To address an array of tenant issues.

**CLIENT ELIGIBILITY** **income guidelines:** none, all services are free  
**geographic guidelines:** none, but mostly serve Philadelphia residents

**INTAKE PROCESS** **hotline:** M - F, 9 am - 5 pm  
**walk-in:** M - F, 10 am - 4 pm  
**Tenants' Rights Workshops:** M, W, F, 10 am;  
and M-W, 2 pm

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE** **Tenant issues**, including: eviction, tenant councils,  
and lead poisoning

**PROGRAMS** **Tenant's Rights Counseling:** information and  
referral hotline and individual counseling through  
crisis intervention and supportive services.  
**Court Prep/Eviction Defense:** for tenants facing  
eviction, to help them conduct pro se representation.  
T - Th, 9 am, at 34 S. 11th Street, 4th Floor.  
**Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**  
**Tenant Organizing**  
**Community Education**  
**Specialized Services for the Elderly, New**  
**Mothers, and Children**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Phil Lord

**University of Pennsylvania Law School**  
**Gittis Center for Clinical Legal Studies**  
3400 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6279  
(215) 898-8427 (phone) (215) 573-6783 (fax)  
Web site: www.law.upenn.edu

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 898-8427
<b>PROGRAM MISSION</b>	To train law students in lawyering skills by providing free legal services under close in-house faculty supervision.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> Litigation case applicants must meet or just slightly exceed legal services financial guidelines. Other clinic's guidelines are more flexible. <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia metropolitan area
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>Referrals and appointments required.</b> No walk-ins. Cases are screened for case type and financial eligibility and are selected for their educational value to the student-lawyers. The office operates year-round but only accepts cases during the academic year.
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	Litigation, Transactional (For-Profit, Non-Profit and Community Development), Mediation
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Penn Legal Assistance Office (Litigation):</b> Law students represent indigent clients in a wide variety of civil cases in courts and administrative agencies. Areas of practice include civil forfeiture, Social Security Disability, Unemployment Compensation, custody, support, housing, consumer educational rights, employment discrimination, civil rights and expungement of child abuse records. No divorce, bankruptcy or criminal matters accepted. <b>Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic (Transactional):</b> Law students provide business-related legal services to new and existing small businesses and non-profit organizations. Areas of practice include business formation (incorporation, partnership, etc.), contract preparation, regulatory compliance, intellectual property and community economic development. <b>Mediation Clinic:</b> Students mediate a variety of disputes including small claims and other civil litigation, family law, private criminal, student disciplinary and neighborhood organizational conflicts.

**Legislative Clinic:** Upon request, and to the extent that time is available, the Clinic provides research, statutory drafting and/or legislative advocacy assistance to qualified individuals or groups seeking state legislative change.

**CLINICAL DIRECTOR  
& PRACTICE PROF.**

Douglas N. Frenkel, Esq.

**Villanova University School of Law - Villanova Clinical Program**

299 North Spring Mill Road, Villanova, PA 19085

(610) 519-6417 (phone) (888) 829-2546 (toll free) (610) 519-5173 (fax)

Web site:

[www.law.villanova.edu/experientiallearning/clinicsandexternships/clinicalcourses.asp](http://www.law.villanova.edu/experientiallearning/clinicsandexternships/clinicalcourses.asp)

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(610) 519-6417
<b>PROGRAM MISSION</b>	Providing free legal representation to under-represented individuals through law students working under close faculty supervision
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>Income Guidelines:</b> Applicants for service from the Civil Justice Clinic and the Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic must meet or just slightly exceed legal services financial guidelines. The Federal Tax Clinic represents clients with income not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty guideline. Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services has no income guidelines.
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	Intake is done by telephone for the Civil Justice, Tax and Farmworker Clinics. The Farmworker and Federal Tax Clinics also utilize outreach programs. CARES clients are given personal intake interviews. Each case is screened for case type, financial eligibility and educational value for the student-lawyers.
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services:</b> Provides representation to refugees seeking asylum protection in the United States because of threatened persecution in the countries from which they fled.  <b>Civil Justice Clinic:</b> Provides representation to low income clients in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties in a range of civil legal matters, including custody, support, housing, disability and employment issues.  <b>Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic:</b> Provides representation to farmworkers living and working on farms near Reading (Berks Co.) and Kennett Square (Chester Co.), mainly for employment and housing related claims.  <b>Federal Tax Clinic:</b> Provides representation to low income taxpayers in controversies before the I.R.S. and in United States Tax Court. No preparation of tax returns, unless the preparation is ancillary to a controversy matter.
<b>CLINICAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR</b>	Michele Pistone, Esq.

**Women Against Abuse Legal Center**  
100 South Broad Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19110  
(215) 686-7082 (phone)      (215) 686-7041 (fax)  
**United Way Donor Option Number: 00195**

<b>INTAKE PHONE</b>	(215) 686-7082
<b>ORGANIZATION MISSION</b>	To provide legal representation and advocacy to victims of domestic violence.
<b>CLIENT ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>income guidelines:</b> none <b>geographic guidelines:</b> Philadelphia <b>other guidelines:</b> victims of domestic violence
<b>INTAKE PROCESS</b>	<b>by phone: M - F, 9 am - 5 pm</b>
<b>AREAS OF EXPERTISE</b>	<b>Domestic violence, custody and support</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Direct legal services</b> to victims of domestic violence:  <b>Civil component</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• legal options counseling</li><li>• advocacy</li><li>• court advocacy</li><li>• court representation for victims who have filed cases pursuant to the Protection From Abuse Act</li><li>• court representation for victims of domestic violence who have a physical disability</li><li>• limited custody and support assistance and representation (for litigants who are also victims of domestic violence)</li><li>• limited appellate work</li></ul> <b>Criminal component</b>  <b>Municipal Court Program:</b> provides confidential support, information, and assistance to victims and/or witnesses against their abusers in Municipal Court and to victims who have been sexually assaulted by their abusers  <b>Contempt Court Advocacy Program:</b> assists victims in court whose abusers have been arrested for misdemeanor protection order violations, and victims who have filed private criminal complaints against their abusers are assisted with that process.

**Safety Planning Workshops:** helps victims develop safety strategies; provides workshops in high schools about teen domestic violence

**Self-Defense Program:** provides support and advocacy for battered women who hurt or kill their abusers in self-defense.

**Advocacy:** WAA Legal Center works with the Philadelphia Family Court, the Philadelphia Bar Association and other agencies and groups working to improve the legal system for domestic violence victims.

**LEGAL CENTER  
DIRECTOR**

Molly Callahan

## **Women's Law Project**

*Philadelphia Office*

125 South 9th Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 928-9801 (phone) (215) 928-9848 (fax)

*Western Pennsylvania Office*

425 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

(412) 227-0301 (phone) (412) 227-0417 (fax)

e-mail: [info@womenslawproject.org](mailto:info@womenslawproject.org)

Web site: [www.womenslawproject.org](http://www.womenslawproject.org)

### **ORGANIZATION MISSION**

The Women's Law Project is committed to advancing the legal, social, and economic status of women through litigation, public policy advocacy, public education, and individual counseling.

### **LITIGATION**

WLP accepts a small number of high-impact cases having have the potential to benefit large numbers of women or achieve an important doctrinal advance for women. We also support litigation brought by others through the organizing and filing of *amicus curiae* briefs.

### **POLICY ADVOCACY**

WLP promotes coalition building, provides technical assistance to legislators, reviews and comments on pending legislation and proposed rule changes, participates in policy-making task forces, performs speaking engagements, and publishes brochures and self-help materials.

### **TELEPHONE COUNSELING**

The Telephone Counseling and Consumer Education Service provides legal information and referrals to legal and non-legal organizations. Consumers may call WLP Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to complete an intake process. Non-attorney counselors discuss problems, relevant laws and procedures, and resources with callers. WLP cannot accept walk-in requests for counseling.

### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

***Reproductive Rights:*** WLP has a long, distinguished record of achievement in defending reproductive freedom. This work includes challenging restrictive abortion legislation and regulations, protecting clinics against organized blockades and violence, organizing Pennsylvanians for Choice, a coalition fighting for reproductive health care for all Pennsylvanians, advocating for contraceptive equity in health insurance coverage, and opposing "fetal abuse" prosecutions of pregnant women with untreated addictions in favor of providing women with substance abuse treatment.

***Welfare:*** Because the welfare system primarily affects women and their children, WLP engages in

advocacy opposing welfare restrictions that endanger and impoverish vulnerable families and supporting welfare policies and procedures that improve the lives of families. WLP participates on a PA Task Force to assist the Department of Public Welfare in implementing the Family Violence Option, a provision of federal welfare law providing flexibility to victims of domestic violence whose safety is compromised by welfare requirements. WLP is also working to restore welfare eligibility for women in recovery from addiction.

***Family Law Issues:*** WLP recognizes that crucial decisions affecting the future of women and children are made in family court and that resources for representation of family law litigants are scarce. WLP strives to address the barriers to justice in custody, support, and protection from abuse proceedings by working with the Court and other stakeholders to achieve reform and by publishing consumer materials to assist pro se litigants in negotiating the complex family court system.

***Violence Against Women:*** Ending violence against women is a common thread that runs through much of the WLP's work. Major violence-related initiatives include leading advocacy efforts to improve and coordinate the response of Philadelphia government to domestic violence, leading a national effort to stop insurers from discriminating against victims of domestic violence, advocacy to improve the police response to sexual assault complaints, and litigation to improve the response of educational institutions to sexual assault in schools and on college campuses.

***Sex Discrimination:*** WLP strives to eliminate practices and attitudes perpetuating unlawful discrimination against women. Relying on state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including the PA Equal Rights Amendment, we pursue the rights of women and girls to participate fully in employment, education, athletics, and public accommodations.

***Lesbian and Gay Parenting:*** WLP strives to provide children of gay/lesbian parents with the same rights as children of heterosexual parents. Efforts include representing *amicus curiae* in support of adoption and custody rights of lesbian parents, and convening the Pennsylvania Council on Second-Parent Adoption, which monitors adoption procedures involving lesbian and gay families.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Carol Tracy